



Pentecost Sunday Year C

THE GOSPEL. John 20:19-23 or John 14:15-16, 23b-26

*And when he has said this, he breathed on them and said to them
“Receive the Holy Spirit.”*

Come, Holy Spirit;
Fiery Spirit of Love,

O Father of the Poor, Warmth in a Land of Chill,
Comforter of us all: rich, poor;
prisoners, immigrants;
breathe your life
into us.

We beg you to give us your
wisdom, understanding, and courage

to change all that
needs to be
changed

in our climate catastrophe,
our Ukraine war and
our prejudices.

Breathe your life
into us

and send us out to the whole earth.

Aloud we cry,
Veni Sancte Spiritus.



Pentecost by Ladislav Zamorsky

THE FIRST READING Acts 2:1-11

***And suddenly there came from the sky a noise
like a strong driving wind.***

As fire surges in the wind,
you blow through
all creation.

Not just the upper room,
in one place and
time,

but
everywhere.

Come, O Spirit,
set our hearts on fire
every minute of every day.

Let us spread your
grace filled gifts
to the ends
of the
earth.

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Romans 8:8-17

***We do not know how to pray as we ought,
but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.***

Spirit of Jesus,
You know our prayers.
Take our shoddy breaths to the Father.

Let our spirits cry out
in joyful harmony
with you,

in these words:

Abba, Father!

Reflection: There are helpful ways of *imagining* the Holy Spirit. St Paul uses an image drawn from nature when he says that the Spirit bears fruit. He means the visible effect of the Spirit on one's life. We may not be able to see the Holy Spirit, but we can see the effect of the Spirit in our life, just as we cannot see the wind but can see the effect of the wind on people and objects of various kinds.

Paul is saying that wherever we find love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control, the Spirit is there at work. The Spirit becomes visible in and through these qualities and virtues. The person who most of all had those qualities was Jesus because he was full of the Holy Spirit, full of the *life of God*. The Holy Spirit is essentially the very life of God, and that life is a life of love. It is that divine life, that divine love, which was poured out at Pentecost, initially on the first disciples but through them on all who were open to receive this powerful and wonderful gift.

Paul expresses it simply in his letter to the Romans, 'God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us'. The Spirit is constantly at work in our lives, making us more like Jesus. The ordinary, day to day expressions of goodness and kindness, of faithfulness and self-control, of patience and gentleness, are all manifestations of the Spirit that has been given to us by God. We can recognize the Spirit's presence in the common happenings of everyday life. The spiritual is not something other-worldly; it is humanity at its best. (Jose Antonio Pagola)

Opening Prayer of today's Mass

O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers.

